



# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Revenue Mailing 5,000 Unclaimed Property Claim Forms a Week**

**OLYMPIA, Wash.,** June 14, 2005 — If you get a notice in the mail saying you have unclaimed property, the Washington State Department of Revenue wants you to know that it isn't too good to be true.

The Department recently began mailing 5,000 claim forms a week to individuals who have \$75 or more in unclaimed property being held for them by the state. The form lists the value of the unclaimed property and asks a claimant to provide a copy of his or her driver's license and social security number to prove that they are the individual entitled to the money.

Manager Patti Wilson said the mailings have generated calls to the Department by people who are concerned that the claim forms may be a scam. She said the forms are legitimate as long as they direct recipients to mail claims to the Department of Revenue at P.O. Box 47477 in Olympia.

She said about 100,000 claim forms are being sent to the last-known addresses of companies and individuals provided to the Department by businesses last fall. The property includes such items as dormant bank accounts, uncashed checks, utility and phone deposits, insurance proceeds and securities. Businesses are required to turn over these accounts after three years of inactivity. The monies can be claimed by individuals or their heirs in perpetuity.

Through the mailings and other efforts, the Department has returned a record \$25 million to more than 45,000 rightful owners so far this fiscal year, Wilson said. It currently holds about \$470 million in unclaimed property owed to 1.4 million businesses and individuals. Its database can be searched online at <http://ucp.dor.wa.gov>, and claim forms downloaded. Those without Internet access can call 1-800-435-2429.

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